

2/5/05-1

**BONE HEMI-LUMBAR INTERBODY SPINAL
FUSION IMPLANT HAVING AN ASYMMETRICAL LEADING END
AND METHOD OF INSTALLATION THEREOF**

BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

This application is a continuation of Application No. 09/941,425, filed August 28, 2001, now Pat. No. 6,66,890, which is a continuation of Application No. 09/553,000, filed April 19, 2000, now U.S. Patent No. 6,350,283; the disclosures of which are incorporated herein by reference.

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates generally to interbody spinal implants preferably adapted for placement in pairs side by side to either side of the midline with or without a space therebetween into a space created across the height of a disc space and between two adjacent vertebral bodies, after the removal of damaged spinal disc material, for the purpose of correcting spinal disease at that interspace. The spinal implants comprise of cortical bone either in a form such as a material that may naturally be available from a body; or as a composite material of cortical bone in particles or spindles, and the like in a resorbable plastic, ceramic, or other so long as it is structurally suitable for the intended purpose. The implants are adapted such that fusion occurs at least in part through the implants themselves.

Description of the Related Art

Surgical interbody spinal fusion generally refers to the methods for achieving a bridge of bone tissue in continuity between adjacent vertebral bodies and across the disc space to thereby substantially eliminate relative motion between the adjacent vertebral bodies. The term "disc space" refers to the space between adjacent vertebral bodies normally occupied by a spinal disc.

Spinal implants can have opposed upper and lower surfaces that are arcuate or non-arcuate transverse to the longitudinal axis of the implant along at least a portion of the length of the implant. Implants having arcuate opposed portions are adapted to be implanted across and beyond the height of the restored disc space, generally into a